

Message Text

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TAGS: EEWT, GW, UR
SUBJECT: IZVESTIYA COMMENTARY ON FRG-SOVIET ECONOMIC
RELATIONS

1. SEPTEMBER 9 IZVESTIYA COMMENTARY BY BONN CORRESPONDENT N. POLYANOV CHARGES THAT CDU OPPONENTS OF DETENTE, RECEIVING SUPPORT FROM "OTHER SIDE OF THE ATLANTIC," ARE ATTACKING POLITICIANS WHO ADVOCATE GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE USSR. THE COMMENTARY REFERS SPECIFICALLY TO REPROACH MADE "PUBLICLY IN WASHINGTON" TO ONE SPD LEADER FOR ALLEGEDLY STRIVING FOR THE FINLANDIZATION OF THE FRG. (EGON BAHR IS NOT NAMED DIRECTLY.) POLYANOV ALSO STATES THAT THE BONN OPPOSITION IS TRYING TO UNDERMINE THE FRG-SOVIET LONG-TERM ECONOMIC AGREEMENT BY REVERSING IT IN THE COURTS. HE ARGUES THAT IT HAS CHOSEN THIS COURSE INSTEAD OF DIRECT OPPOSITION IN THE BUNDESTAG BECAUSE THE LATTER WOULD PUBLICLY DISCLOSE IT AS OPPOSED TO A POLICY PROFITABLE TO THE FRG AND WARMLY RECEIVED BY THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY. THIS RESORT TO "PROCEDURAL TRICKS" ENABLES OPPOSITION TO SIDE-STEP THE CRITICISM THAT

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WOULD BE LEVELED AT IT AS A PARTY WHICH HAS ALREADY ACCEPTED AS NECESSARY THE POLICY FIXED IN THE 1970 MOSCOW AGREEMENT.

2. POLYANOV ASSERTS THERE HAS BEEN A DISTINCT CHANGE IN PSYCHOLOGICAL ATMOSPHERE IN BONN CONCERNING FRG-SOVIET RELATIONS SINCE THE BREZHNEV VISIT. AS EVIDENCE,

HE CITES STATEMENTS BY CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT AND FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER AS WELL AS INTERVIEW WITH WEST GERMAN BUSINESSMEN. REGARDING FUTURE RELATIONS, HE CONTENTS THE TWO SIDES ARE NOW CONSIDERING NOT MERELY INCREASES IN THE AMOUNT OF ECONOMIC COOPERATION, BUT ALSO THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW FORMS OF BUSINESS TIES, OF WHICH COMPENSATION ARRANGEMENTS ARE THE MOST PROMINENT. WEST GERMAN INDUSTRIALISTS UNDERSTAND THAT ECONOMIC COOPERATION WITH THE SOVIET UNION IS A TWO-WAY STREET; ONE CANNOT REGARD IT "VULGARLY" AS AN EXCHANGE OF WEST GERMAN MANUFACTURED GOODS FOR SOVIET RAW MATERIALS, A POINT OF VIEW WHICH "HAS NO FUTURE." POLYANOV CITES BILATERAL TRADE STATISTICS FOR THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 1978 AS EVIDENCE THAT THE FRG IS BUYING MORE SOVIET GOODS, BUT NOTES THE FRG IS STILL RUNNING A SURPLUS.

3. COMMENT: WE BELIEVE IZVESTIYA ARTICLE IS THE FIRST, ALBEIT OBLIQUE, REFERENCE IN THE SOVIET PRESS TO REPORTED CRITICISM OF BAHR. SOVIET COMMENTS ON DESIRABILITY OF COMPENSATION DEALS AND OF BETTER BALANCED BILATERAL TRADE ARE LONGSTANDING SOVIET THEMES IN ECONOMIC NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE FRG, AND COINCIDE IN THIS CASE WITH MEETING HERE SEPTEMBER 11-12 OF SOVIET-FRG BILATERAL ECONOMIC COMMISSION. GARRISON

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